

1. (Twice Amended) A support bracket for securing wire fence elements to posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the bracket comprising the following:

a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, the first slot having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein;

a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, the second slot having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein; and

a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots and having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the leg to be received therein;

whereby the bracket can be mounted to the post in a first position in which the leg is received in the third slot, and a second position in which the leg extends opposite the third slot.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Twice Amended) A support bracket for securing wire fence elements to posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the bracket comprising the following:

a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, the first slot having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein;

a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, the second slot being generally aligned with the first slot and having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein; and

a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, ~~the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots,~~ the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots and having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the leg to be received therein;

whereby the bracket can be mounted to the post in a first position in which the leg is received in the third slot, and a second position in which the leg extends opposite the third slot.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A method for securing wire fence elements to fence posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a first support bracket including a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, each of the slots having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein, and a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots and having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein;

providing a second support bracket including a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, each of the slots having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein, and a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots and having a width, length, and configuration generally conforming to a width, length, and configuration of the cross-arm to be received therein; mounting the first bracket to a post in a first position in which the leg of the post is received in the third slot of the bracket; and mounting the second bracket to a post in a second position in which the leg of the post extends opposite the third slot of the bracket.